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NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
this date of: 4-24-2007

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF

CONRADO ROBLEJO, D.V.M.

License No. 29VI00150300

TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made;

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent, Conrado Roblejo, D.V.M., License No. 29VI00150300, is a veterinarian licensed in the State of New Jersey and has been licensed at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about February 23, 2005, the State Board of Veterinary Medicine in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, issued a Final Adjudication and Order suspending Respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine ". . . indefinitely, for not less than one year." The Board's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Discussion concluded that Respondent failed to conform to the acceptable and prevailing standard of veterinary medical practice

by failing to: 1) perform appropriate diagnostic testing on a dog, Venus; and 2) provide appropriate treatment for Venus' veterinary medical condition on January 18 and 26, and February 10, 2000.

3. The Board imposed a civil penalty of \$1,000.00, a total of sixteen (16) hours of continuing education, successful completion of the Companion Animal Proficiency Examination of the National Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine and the indefinite period of suspension lasting at least one (1) year followed by two (2) years of probation. (A copy of the Order and available supporting materials are annexed hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof).

4. The respondent appealed the Board's final adjudication and Order to the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania in or about September 2005. The reviewing court affirmed the civil penalty and the continuing education requirement. However, the Commonwealth Court limited the active suspension of Dr. Roblejo's license to a maximum one year period and reversed the requirement of the Companion Animal Proficiency examination and the additional two year probationary period in an Order issued in October 2005. (A copy of the Order and available supporting materials are annexed hereto as Exhibit B and made a part hereof).

5. During the pendency of the appeal process, respondent complied with the Pennsylvania Board's Order and completed the imposed continuing education, paid the civil penalty

and ceased practicing veterinary medicine in the State. He then filed a petition for reinstatement and expedited decision with the Pennsylvania Board in November 2005. The Board concluded that the seriousness of Dr. Roblejo's offenses outweighed his evidence of prompt completion of the imposed sanctions and that said compliance did not persuade the Board to reduce or deviate from the imposed one year suspension. Therefore, respondent's petition for reinstatement was denied in a Board Order issued in February 2006. (A copy of the Order and available supporting materials are annexed hereto as Exhibit C and made a part hereof).

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. The above disciplinary actions taken by the sister state of Pennsylvania provides grounds to take disciplinary action against Respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine in New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(g), in that Respondent's license has been suspended in another state.

2. The above disciplinary action taken by the sister state of Pennsylvania provides grounds to take disciplinary action against Respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine in New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d), in that Respondent has engaged in repeated acts of negligence.

DISCUSSION ON FINALIZATION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline, preliminarily concluding that the

disciplinary action taken by the sister state of Pennsylvania provided grounds to take disciplinary action against the respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine in New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(g) in that respondent's license had been suspended in another state, was entered on July 26, 2006 and a copy was served on the respondent. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefore.

In his initial response to the Provisional Order, Dr. Roblejo submitted a written correspondence, dated August 24, 2006, for the Board's review. In this document, respondent requested that the Board dismiss or modify the findings of fact and conclusions of law detailed in the Provisional Order. Specifically, Dr. Roblejo denied that he had failed to perform appropriate diagnostic testing and provide appropriate treatment for Venus' veterinary medical condition. He again asserted that he had recommended appropriate testing and treatment but that these

services had been declined by the owner. He admitted however that he had failed to properly document the owner's rejection of his testing and treatment recommendations in his medical records. The respondent also maintained that the Board's intended sanctions were too harsh given his admitted failure to adequately maintain patient records.

In a second response to the Provisional Order, James V. Hetzel, Esquire, counsel for the respondent, submitted a written correspondence, dated March 5, 2007, for the Board's review on Dr. Roblejo's behalf. In this document, counsel for Dr. Roblejo emphasized that the Pennsylvania Board was excessively harsh in suspending the respondent's license for a year. In support of this argument, counsel noted that the Commonwealth Court, which reversed the Pennsylvania's Order in part and modified it in part, directed that the Pennsylvania Board to

. . . consider a lesser period of suspension upon {Roblejo's} petition therefore in the wake of his documented successful completion of the continuing education requirements. . .

The Court further observed in its written opinion that

We note that even a one-year suspension of Dr. Roblejo's license borders very closely on excessive in relation to the violations at issue under the light of the instant circumstances, and urge the Board to strongly and carefully reconsider a full-imposition of that entire year of suspension should Dr. Roblejo satisfy the continuing education requirements prior to that expiration of that entire period. . .

The Board, following its review of this entire matter, concluded that Dr. Roblejo had presented sufficient evidence in mitigation of the penalty. Specifically, the Board noted that respondent has been licensed in the State of New Jersey since February 1, 1972 without any formal disciplinary action. The Board further found that the sanctions imposed by the Pennsylvania Board for Dr. Roblejo's single act of negligence was sufficient and concluded that additional penalties were unwarranted. Finally, the Board noted that respondent has adequately and dutifully complied with the imposed sanctions and that his license to practice veterinary medicine in Pennsylvania was reinstated without limitations in November 2006.

Therefore, the Board voted, for the reasons detailed above, to rescind the Provisional Order.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 18TH day of APRIL 2007,

ORDERED THAT:

1. The Provisional Order of Discipline issued in this matter on July 26, 2006, is hereby rescinded.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____

Mark W. Logan VMD
MARK W. LOGAN, V.M.D.
President